

Torrance, California  
January 23, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, January 23, 1945, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Cucci moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 9, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett reported that statements had been received from Shell Oil Company, General Petroleum Corporation, Associated Oil Company, and Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that no pipe lines were laid, installed, abandoned, altered or removed by those companies for the period ending December 31, 1944 under certain City of Torrance Franchise Ordinances, and certain Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinances. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Southwest District Highways Association, outlining the activities of the Association, and requesting Mayor Tolson to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. It was advised that a meeting has been arranged for January 30, 1945 at the Gold Cup Cafe, 3425 West Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, at 7:00 P.M., and requested that the Mayor attend that meeting.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to attend the meeting as a representative of the City of Torrance, and that any other members of the Council who may so desire also attend. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Shoreline Planning Association of California, Incorporated, advising that the association has been working for the past two years for the acquisition of the Moonstone Beach in the City of Torrance by the County of Los Angeles or the State. It was pointed out that the City of Torrance should benefit greatly if this beach can be acquired, as it will restore the property to the tax rolls and will be a decided improvement, as plans have been made to make a public park and beach of the property. It was requested that the City appropriate \$100.00 to help defray expenses of the association in carrying on the program of shore and beach, which involves sending representatives to Sacramento in connection with beach legislation.

Mayor Tolson said he had talked with Supervisor Darby regarding this matter, and added that the Shoreline Planning Association has been earnestly trying to get beach properties in order, and make the now privately owned beaches into public parks and beaches. He said he felt this appropriation, if allowed, will be used to benefit the City of Torrance greatly.

After making it clear that his understanding is that the appropriation will be made payable to the Association, and not to an individual, Councilman Cucci moved that \$100.00 be appropriated for participating membership dues in the Shoreline Planning Association of California, Incorporated, the money to be used in connection with beach legislation, and particularly, the Association's interest in Moonstone Beach, located in the City of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from United Steelworkers of America, Local Union 1414, C.I.O., protesting a proposed city sales tax, and suggesting that the City Council demand of the State Legislature restoration of the Income and Corporation Franchise tax to the 1941-1943 levels to create sufficient funds to aid California cities to finance post war work, and also suggesting restoration of the 4% Corporation Tax in Torrance recently reduced by the City Council. (It was assumed that the 4% Corporation Tax referred to meant the 4% reduction in the general tax levy for the 1944-45 fiscal year.)

Councilman Hitchcock stated that it was he who had introduced the idea of a city sales tax to raise funds for post war work, having read of the plan being in operation in San Bernardino. He said the matter had only been referred to the Council for study and to consider the merits of it, but that no definite action had been contemplated to his knowledge. He said that the tax seemed to him fair and evenly distributed, and that the object of presenting it for study was to determine what the other members of the Council thought about it.

Councilman Powell said, that, regarding the reduction in the tax rate referred to in the above communication, he had not favored such reduction at the time the tax rate was established, and had said so at the time, although, he said, he did vote for it.

A short period of discussion followed, and, no conclusions being reached, it was decided to hold a meeting in the near future for discussion of ways and means of raising funds for post war projects.

A communication was read from W. L. Allen, advising that he is a property owner and resident in North Torrance, and protesting any plan or plans to allow Federal housing projects in North Torrance. No action.

A communication was read from State, County and Municipal Workers of America, Local 360, recommending that the plan drafted by Mr. C. Z. Ward to stabilize overtime pay rates be adopted and requesting that the plan be extended to all city employees.

Councilman Cucci stated that much confusion has resulted in the past on the part of employees, inasmuch as overtime rates were computed on a monthly, or pay period, basis, resulting in a changing rate from one period to the next. He said the plan as formulated by Mr. Ward would provide for overtime pay rates computed on the annual salary rate of the employee, which would establish a specific overtime rate for the various salary brackets.

Councilman Cucci moved that the plan formulated by Mr. C. Z. Ward to compute overtime rates on the basis of the employee's annual salary, thereby establishing a stable overtime rate, be adopted and put into practice, to extend to all employees, and to be made retroactive to January 16, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State of California, Division of Highways, advising that the cost of a plant inspector requested by the City Engineer in connection with the Torrance Boulevard improvement will exceed the \$250.00 furnished by the City, and requesting an additional \$125.00 for this purpose.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an additional amount of \$125.00 be paid to the State Division of Highways, for asphalt inspection services performed at the Roscoe Asphalt Plant of the Southwest Paving Company in connection with, and until completion of, the Torrance Boulevard project. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, recommending that Ralph S. Perkins, who successfully passed the Civil Service examination held November 10, 1944 for the position of Street Superintendent, be considered as a proper applicant for appointment to the position, effective November 10, 1944.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Ralph S. Perkins be appointed permanently, upon recommendation of the Civil Service Board, to the position of Street Superintendent, effective November 10, 1944, Mr. Perkins to begin his probationary period of six months as of that date, this constituting a Civil Service appointment. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1703

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AND ADOPT-  
ING PROPOSED LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID  
PLAN AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN  
THE PLAN BY ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1703 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$50.64, including tax, be made for linoleum for the City Jail floor. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. A. L. Elder be appointed as a member of the Civil Service Board for a term of six years, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. H. B. Dunn. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be made for an exchange motor for Bus No. 102. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Thomas L. Hubbard be employed as a bus operator, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective December 7, 1944, to replace Virgil Plunkett who has been transferred to the City Garage. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert commented that some confusion has resulted in the past upon employment of persons with no definite clarification of that person's status. He said a number of employees are uncertain as to whether their appointments are war emergency, temporary, or duration appointments. A short period of discussion followed, it being agreed that something should be done to clarify the point brought up by Councilman Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Ward, Manager of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to employ a part time cashier-stenographer to work in the Bus Lines office Saturdays and Sundays at a rate of \$1.00 per hour. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$3,635.34 be made for library service from July 1, 1944 to December 31, 1944, in accordance with the contract between the City of Torrance and Los Angeles County Public Library. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$732.00 be made for decoration of the Civic Auditorium, this price to include outright purchase price of the ceiling decorations. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell reported that the Red Cross Headquarters are in need of heating facilities. Councilman Cucci advised that he expects to have an estimate for this in the near future.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Clarence Brown be employed, on a temporary basis, as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective January 22, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Barney J. Hall be employed on a temporary basis, as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective January 2, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Sam Shepherd, who passed the Civil Service examination, be appointed as City Painter at a salary of \$225.00 per month, his probationary period to begin January 16, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Harry Webb be employed on a temporary basis, when available, as a surveyor in the City Engineer's office at a salary of \$250.00 per month. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Clerk Bartlett whether or not he had received a bill from the League of California Cities for dues for 1945, Clerk Bartlett's reply being in the negative.



Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to pay the City's dues to the League of California Cities for 1945 upon receipt of an invoice. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that John A. Jones be employed, on a temporary basis, as a park maintenance man, Park Department, at a salary of \$170.00, effective January 10, 1945, to replace Henry Dever. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Robert Knuckles, owner of the building located at 2415 Arlington Avenue, and rented by the City as an Arts and Crafts Building, leasing said building for a period of one year beginning January 1, 1945, for a rental fee of \$30.00 per month, subject to sale by the Lessor, and to contain a thirty-day clause. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Engineer Jain, in which Engineer Jain advised that the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference has had a Table of Building Valuation Data prepared and submitted by Marshall and Stevens, Valuation engineers, for the purpose of aiding building departments in establishing uniform valuations on buildings of various types for building permit purposes. He gave a brief outline of the advantage of using this Table, and recommended that the City Council, by resolution, adopt the Table, which is dated January 15, 1945.

Mayor Tolson suggested deferring action on this until the next meeting to allow time for study, which appeared to meet with the approval of all members of the Council.

Mayor Tolson asked for a report regarding the communication which was referred to Mr. C. Z. Ward in which it was suggested that the City install Hall-Scott governors on the new busses. Councilman Cucci stated that no report is ready as yet. He stated, however, that the brakes on the new busses are causing trouble.

Mayor Tolson reported that he and Councilman Hitchcock had attended a meeting in Waleria January 22, 1945, with thirty or forty Waleria residents in attendance, representing practically all groups in the community, relative to the water situation. He said the meeting had been highly satisfactory, and that he felt the people were earnestly trying to arrive at some solution of the water problem. He said it had been the consensus of opinion, and the recommendation of the various groups that the City employ experts to study the over-all water needs of the community of Waleria. He said that, since the meeting was only last night, he had not had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the rest of the City Council and would like to consult with them to determine what steps should be taken at this time, a report to be made at the earliest possible date. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation shown by the Waleria residents.

Mayor Tolson introduced Mr. Loughridge of Waleria, recently returned from the South Seas, having been there in the service of his Country on duty with the United States Navy. Mayor Tolson also introduced Mayor Jones of Hawthorne, who spoke briefly and thanked the Council for courtesies extended to neighboring cities, and acknowledged particularly the courtesy shown by Dale Riley and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Loughridge also addressed the Council briefly.

Mr. Charles Elman of Los Angeles addressed the Council briefly.

A gentleman in the assemblage asked what progress had been made with post war plans for returning veterans. He asked whether or not funds are being set aside annually for this cause.

Mayor Tolson advised that no funds have been set aside, but that meetings have been in progress between the City Planning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City Council for discussion of the subject.

Councilman Powell moved that organized labor be requested to appoint one man as a representative of labor to sit in on Post War Planning Commission Meetings, stating that a man from the ranks of labor can offer many valuable suggestions, as he is in touch with the working man and is in a position to know what the needs and desires are of the group he represents. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain advised that Western Avenue has been given much publicity as a possible post war project, stating that he understands that the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Tolson and the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce have been working together on this plan. He pointed out, however, that before this project can be scheduled, the City must acquire 3600 feet of right of way on Western Avenue. The property involved is owned, he continued, by one estate, which estate has been extremely courteous and cooperative in past negotiations. He suggested that, if the Council so desired, he would contact the estate relative to the matter, or contact the Engineer of Los Angeles and endeavor to work out a combination agreement.

Mayor Tolson reported that the Board of Supervisors had advised that their right of way man is burdened with too much work to undertake anything at this time for Torrance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to contact the City Engineer of Los Angeles and determine what kind of agreement can be worked out with the City of Los Angeles relative to the right of way on Western Avenue, and in connection with the Western Avenue improvement project. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci interjected the thought that condemnation proceedings should be started as a means of securing the right of way. He said that the Crenshaw Boulevard right of way had been held up due to the fact that the parties concerned had tried to reach an agreement, and that a satisfactory conclusion had never been reached, finally resulting in the matter still being unsettled. He said the City should eliminate all the preliminaries and start condemnation proceedings immediately when endeavoring to obtain a right of way.

Councilman Powell said it seemed only fair to approach the owner of the property and state the position of the City in the matter and give the owner an opportunity of expressing himself and either donating the property, or establishing a purchase price. He said if the price is low enough, it will be more economical than condemnation proceedings.

Mayor Tolson confirmed Engineer Jain's statement that the Kettler Estate, owner of the property in question, had always been most cooperative with the City in all past negotiations.

A vote was taken on Councilman Hitchcock's motion, which was carried unanimously.

After a short period of discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that condemnation proceedings be started to obtain the right of way on Crenshaw Boulevard. This motion was lost for want of a second.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Engineer be authorized to contact the owners of the property on Crenshaw Boulevard north of 190th Street, which right of way the City is desirous of obtaining, and determine whether or not the property owner will donate the property to the City; if the owner refuses, then condemnation proceedings to be started immediately to secure the right of way. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion.

Attorney McCall stated that he had investigated this matter and found that it will be practically impossible for anyone to furnish a good title, that the property is mortgaged, and the taxes

are delinquent. He said locating the real owner or owners of the property would be almost an impossible task.

A short discussion ensued regarding methods of acquiring the right of way. Councilman Powell asked Attorney McCall whether or not it would be advisable to request Associated Assessment Engineers to investigate the matter and endeavor to furnish the City with the name of the owner or owners.

Councilman Hitchcock offered a substitute motion to Councilman Gilbert's motion, to the effect that the City Attorney be instructed to give a report at the next meeting, stating his opinion as to the best method of acquiring the right of way on Crenshaw Boulevard north of 190th Street. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert's motion, seconded by Councilman Cucci, was declared lost.

Councilman Gilbert moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:07 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE